

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 20-404V

UNPUBLISHED

SHIRLEY UNDERWOOD,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: April 21, 2023

Special Processing Unit (SPU);
Damages Decision Based on Proffer;
Influenza (Flu) Vaccine; Shoulder
Injury Related to Vaccine
Administration (SIRVA)

Leigh Finfer, Muller Brazil, LLP, Dresher, PA, for Petitioner.

Claudia Barnes Gangi, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.

DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES¹

On April 8, 2020, Shirley Underwood filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*² (the “Vaccine Act”). Petitioner alleges that she suffered a Table Injury – shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (“SIRVA”) – as a result of an influenza (“flu”) vaccine administered on September 14, 2017. Petition at 1. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On January 6, 2023, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding Petitioner entitled to compensation for SIRVA. On April 19, 2023, Respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation (“Proffer”) indicating Petitioner should be awarded \$48,500.00. Proffer at 1-2. In the Proffer, Respondent represented that Petitioner agrees with the proffered

¹ Because this Decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action taken in this case, it must be made publicly accessible and will be posted on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website, and/or at <https://www.govinfo.gov/app/collection/uscourts/national/cofc>, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2018) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services). **This means the Decision will be available to anyone with access to the internet.** In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), Petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, I agree that the identified material fits within this definition, I will redact such material from public access.

² National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all section references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2018).

award. *Id.* Based on the record as a whole, I find that Petitioner is entitled to an award as stated in the Proffer.

Pursuant to the terms stated in the attached Proffer, **I award Petitioner a lump sum payment of \$48,500.00 in the form of a check payable to Petitioner.** This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under Section 15(a).

The Clerk of Court is directed to enter judgment in accordance with this decision.³

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/Brian H. Corcoran

Brian H. Corcoran
Chief Special Master

³ Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.

**IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS**

SHIRLEY UNDERWOOD,

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V.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

No. 20-404V

Chief Special Master Corcoran
(ECF)

PROFFER ON AWARD OF COMPENSATION

On August 26, 2021, petitioner filed a Motion for a Ruling on the Record (“Motion”) arguing that she has established entitlement to compensation for a shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (“SIRVA”) as a result of receiving an influenza (“flu”) vaccination on September 14, 2017. ECF No. 27. Respondent filed his Response to Petitioner’s Motion on November 2, 2021, recommending that entitlement to compensation be denied. ECF No. 29. On January 6, 2023, Chief Special Master Corcoran issued a Ruling on Entitlement concluding that petitioner is entitled to compensation under the Vaccine Act.¹ ECF No. 30.

I. Items of Compensation

Based upon the evidence of record, respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded \$48,500.00, which represents all elements of compensation to which petitioner would be entitled

¹ Respondent has no objection to the amount of the proffered award of damages set forth herein. Assuming the Chief Special Master issues a damages decision in conformity with this proffer, respondent waives his right to seek review of such damages decision. However, respondent reserves his right, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-12(e), to seek review of the Chief Special Master's January 6, 2023 entitlement decision.

under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a).² Petitioner agrees.

II. Form of the Award

Petitioner is a competent adult. Evidence of guardianship is not required in this case. Respondent recommends that the compensation provided to petitioner should be made through a lump sum payment of \$48,500.00, in the form of a check payable to petitioner. Petitioner agrees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: April 19, 2023

² Should petitioner die prior to the entry of judgment, the parties reserve the right to move the Court for appropriate relief. In particular, respondent would oppose any award for future medical expenses, future lost earnings, and future pain and suffering.